ONE CENT.

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# TREASURY FIRE AND EXPLOSION IMPERIL 2.500

Valuable Records Burned And Damage Placed At \$30,000.

**EMPLOYES LEAVE** BUILDING QUIETLY

## Thousands Watch Blaze On Roof-Foreman Suffers Burns.

Fire which broke out on the roo of the Treasury Building, followed by an explosion which threw flames into the photostat tower of the government structure and imperiled governmen structure and imperiled 2,500 employes yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Accelerated by the explosion of ten-gallon kerosene tank in a tem-porary frame structure on the roof near the center of the building in which the blaze originated, and a high wind, the flames were soon hooting into the air and spreading rapidly to other sections of the roof and the 40 by 80 foot tower at-tached to the building. An alarm was sounded from the

photostat tower immediately after fire as the alarm sounded instantaneously in the office of the cap-tain of the watch, and all sections of the four floors of the building. No Signs of Panic.

their exodus. Without rushing or showing signs of panic the clerks left the upper floors, and under direction of members of the watch force were guided from the crowded basement floor in orderly fashion. All elevators in the building were quickly put into operation, al-though an hour before closing time. Within twenty minutes most of the employes had left the building. Fire Chief Watson, who saw the smoke pouring from the building as the first alarm sounded in his office, a block away, rushed to the, Treasury offices. He immediately

## Workmen Help Firemen.

While apparatus surrounded the uilding, ladders were directed toward the roof to put the fire hose within range of the blaze, which was rapidly gaining head-way and spreading to all sections of the frame temporary structures in use for construction of the ne

the Fifteenth street and East Excoutive avenue sides had been carried over the abutting cornice of the roof and streams were turned the conference treaties, will go to on the blazing construction store- the Senate probably Saturday or house in the center of the roof structure and the photostat tower.

forced to leave the blaze and assist

ire lives along the east side of Fifteenth street. Crowds also assembled in the White House crounds and on the roofs of down-town office buildings to watch the firemen fighting to save one of the government's oldest structures Six equads of Marines, who have been guarding the arms delegates, were rushed to the department building from Potomac Park, under command of Maj. William F. Bev-ans. A cordon was quickly strung about the building to assist police in preserving fire lines and guarding the Treasury offices from the

### Valuable Records Ruined.

Priceless records and some original plans for government build-ings, used by the fifty draftsmen working in the photostat tower, were damaged or destroyed. \$20,000. The blaze broke through the roof into the fourth floor diin the tower, but was quickly ex-tinguished. Water ruined many of records left behind in the drafting rooms, and those on the many tables in the division of con-struction rooms immediately be-neath the blaze on the roof. Water alse soaked through from the fourth floor to the third, damaging records and books in the office of the Comptrolled of the Treasury in rooms 305 and 307.

The height of the building and abutting cornice at the edge of the roof handicapped firemen in carrying the hose to the top. A hook and ladder truck was driven up the steps of the center entrance to the building on the west side, and ladders extended to near the edge of the roof from where lines were used in pulling three hoses to the top.

## Treasury Head Stays at Desk Despite Flames

Conference With Other Officials Uninterrupted, Despite Excitement.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon did not leave his office where he was in conference during the Treasury fire yesterday. After ascertaining the extent of the fire and giving orders for dismissal or all employes, he continued his con-ference with other officials of the departments. Secretary Mellon's rooms are on the second floor in the center of the south wing. The blaze was confined to the center section of the roof.

Treasury Department telephone were forced to answe hundreds of calls which burdened the wires for more than an hour as anxious relatives inquired for the safety of Treasury employes.

## CONFERENCE COST TO U. S. RECKONED AT ABOUT \$300,000

### State Department Will Pay Amount in Excess Of Appropriation.

the blaze began, and employes of the building were warned of the only about \$300,000 to carry through spent above the original pose by Congress is expected to be ing. so small that President Harding has motive for the murder. As downtown companies were answering the first alarm, the 2,500 partment contingent fund rather employes, mostly women, began than ask Congress for a deficiency ordered it taken from the State Dewomen, began than ask Congress for a deficiency appropriation.

For the scope of the work undertaken and the three months required to accomplish it, the arms conference stands, therefore, as one of the least expensive of its kind ever held. Only one of the American delegates received a salary- in Cherrydale an hour later. Elihu Root-and his salary \$250 a Week.

The most expense, a report now being prepared by Undersecretary her handbag containing clothing Fletcher, will reveal, occurred in and toilet articles, \$70 in cash, and turned in a second and a third alarm, bringing all fire companies within a radius of two miles to Building into offices for the dele-Building into offices for the delegates-most of which were never used—in alterations of the first floor of the D. A. R. Congress Hall, to accommodate the plenary sessions of the conference, and in the work of the secretariat general.

## Report Sent to Printer

•The American delegation vester-day completed its report of the arms conference negotiations — totaling 40,000 words-sent it to the printer, and it probably will be ready for the conference treaties, will go to to the home shortly after leaving fonday. The big job completely out

of the architect are made.

Two Hundred Marines Aid Pelice.

The us you the way, Secretary and Mrs. Hughes will leave for a two-week trip to Bermuda as soon as Mr. Hughes can be seen that the way of the way. The workmen employed in con-truction work on the roof were ters. Today or tomorrow he will spread to leave the blaze and assist send América's reply to the invita-

down-town crowds, and police redampe won't hurt. Besides, one of serves were ordered by Acting Superintendent Sullivan to maintain and that objective has been chosen the report of the analysis, accordand that objective has been chosen to permit of a visit with her. Interest Shifts to Senate.

> For the next few weeks, therefor the next few weeks, there-fore, interest in arms conference results shifts to the Senate. Both Senators Lodge and Underwood, leaders of their respective parties in the upper branch of Congress, believe that opposition to the trea-ties has materially waned and that ties has materially waned and that no reservation to any of the pacts will muster more than a dozen votes on either side—a total of twenty-four! Underwood further believes that

Underwood further believes that the report just completed consti-tutes so complete an explanation of everything that it will com-pletely quiet opposition, thwart any charge of secret diplomacy, and hold a conference with his Demotee, it is believed, will total the cratic following, however, if such is desired, for further explanation.

The blaze broke through is desired, for further explanation.

Irreconcilables, on the other hand, did not view the outlook so optimistically. Leaders among them declared that the treaties would not pass without "thorough would not pass without "thorough and protracted debate." Senator Johnson, one of these, is expected to devote himself particularly to questions pertaining to Japan and robbed and murdered," said Sheriff what she gained from the confer-

BERLIN, Feb. 8 .- Although the cabinet is composed of minority parties, the Wirth government feels girl is said to have been murdered, that it won a remarkable victory, demonstrating its strength, when it reached a compromise with the city. demonstrating its strength, when it reached a compromise with the rail-road strikers. It is declared the set-tlement was due largely to Chan-Weeping bitterly the widowed

with the locomotive engineers himself.

Today the Wirth government feels itself capable of withstanding for the roof, manned by two firemen each carried hose lines to the top on the east side.

It was after 4 o'clock when the line was put into play from the east side. The fire had practically been confined to the photostat tower by this time and was from sixty to one hundred-marks a form in the cost of living recently, is not play from the east started, according to a strongly in the control. The blaze started according to a fire Marshal Leonard V. Selb, when the roof the hundred-marks a face for the United States.

The blaze started according to a strongly in the cost of living recently, is not play from a kerosene torch and supply tank

\*\*Continued on Page Teo.\*\*

With the locomotive engineers himself. Today the Withstanding was lingth or early the following morning

Sunday night or early the following morning

NEW REVOLUTION

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 8.—A new revolution will be launched in Mexico City. Feb. 8.—A new revolution will be launched in Mexico City. Feb. 8.—A new revolution will be situated the signing of the armising of the armis

# **BELIEVE GIRL** FOUND IN RIVER **WAS MURDERED**

Police Seek Missing Jewels Worth \$500 and Purse.

### ROBBERY HELD AS CRIME MOTIVE

Two Men Seen in Auto, Near Cherrydale, Possible Slayers.

Miss Ella May Hullings Jones was murdered somewhere between her home at Alexandria and Cherydale, Va., last Friday, Arlington county police believe. Identification of a battered body

lragged from the Potomac by

Harbor precinct police Monday aftrnoon was followed yesterday by liscovery of a chain of evidence that points to death by violence. The dead girl, 25 years old, a naval yeomanette during the war, was identified late Tuesday night by her brother, George W. Jones, of Alexndria. It had lain over twentyfour hours at the District morgue

Jewels and Purse Missing. Jewels worth \$500 had been taken from the body when it was found \$200,000 appropriated for the pur- A purse with \$70 in cash was miss-Robbery is considered the

> Two white men, seen speeding !! an automobile from the trolley station at Cherrydale last Friday aftrnoon, are sought by police in con-Miss Jones kissed her mother good-by at their Alexandria home about 10:30 a.m. Friday. She left

the house to visit a friend, Mrs Ruby Grogan, at Cherrydale. The girl was seen to board a street car near her home. The car was due Police have been unable to locat Believe Girl Was Robbed.

"That Miss Jones was robbed of personal jewelry valued at approxi-mately \$500, there is no doubt." said Sheriff Clements, of Clarendon, last night.
The loss of the jewelry, particu-

larly one ring valued at nearly \$300, which is said by members of the family to have been unremov-able, started police in their invesable, started police in their investigation. The ring is believed to have been filed from the finger.

Miss Jones never reached the home of Mrs. Grogan, where she had intended to spend the weekend. This was ascertained last night by Deputy Sheriff Keim, of Cherrydale. He believes the girl met her murderers while walking to the home shortly after leading.

## Expected by Mrs. Grogan

Mrs. Grogen last night told police Mrs. Grogan last high to she was expecting Miss Jones early Friday afternoon. When she failed to hear from her she thought the

The smoke pouring from the heart of the flames, which shot thirty feet into the air, attracted in his life, but believes a little ing to officials, will be completed within two or three days. Police are endeavoring to locate the trol- th ley crew to learn whether Miss paring for repressive action which Jones got off the car at Clarendon. may include action against Gandhi Wore Jeweled Girdle.

At the time of her departure Miss Jones wore a jeweled girdle, two rings—one a 13-karat gold fraternity ring and the other a dinner ring set with rubies—a gold locket and a gold hat pin. She carried a small handbag containing her nigh apparel, a gingham gown and manicuring and toilet set. She was manicuring and toilet set. She was
seen to place a purse containing \$70
in her cost nocket. Fifty dollars
Gandhi, as disclosed by the comin her coat pocket. Fifty dollars of the money is said by members of the money is said by members of the family to have been derived from the sale of tickets for a stree carnival being conducted by the Alexandria Post of the American Legion. The remainder of the funds belonged to her. .

## Officials Are Mystified.

Virginia authorities say the case is a complete mystery.'
"It is my belief that the girl was picked from the road, probably ren-Clements.

The body is believed to have been speeded by automobile to the High-way Bridge and dropped overboard. ELATES GERMANS
ERLIN. Feb. 8.—Although the

No trace of the missing hat worn by the girl, the handbag or the purse could be found.
Shortly after 2 o'clock Friday af-

Huge Tower Useless.

The huge water tower, one of the first machines on the scene, proved useless when the line of the hose self.

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# Pacific Burned: Crew of 27 Saved

Freighter Ashore on Cape Cod-Ten of Crew of Forty Rescued.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.-The North ern Pacific, of the Admiral Line purchased by that firm from the United States Shipping Board, this afternoon was burned to a shell of warped steel about eleven miles of a spot shown on the charts as Five Fathern Bank lightship, in the gen-eral locality of Cape May, N. J. T. The freight steamship Transporta-tion wirelessed that she had sicked up twenty-two members of the crew. Five others were picked up by the tank steamship Wylle. Four draughtsmen, who bearded the Northern Pacific in New York to draw plans for her refitting, were reported as missing by Wylle, but confusion of messages strenghtened the hope that these men had been saved.

The Wylie reported that the liner vas burning furiously from stem to tern. The presumption was that her fuelfull tanks were feeding the flames. The crew is believed to have been accounted for, as it was understood that there were but twenty-seven aboard—a skeleton crew signed merely to take the The crew is believed to Northern Pacific to a shipyard for

efitting.
The Thistlemore, driven by a ter-The Thistiemore, uriven by a rific gale, was swept across two bars and piled up on Peaked Hill Bar, near Highland Light. Mass. Relief vessels were compelled to stand off and watch the Thistiemore pounding on the beach, as more pounding on the beach, as they could not risk going over the two outer bars. Life saving crews rigged a breeches buoy and took off ten men out of the crew of The others were standing

by the ship.

The four draughtsmen aboard the
Northern Pacific whose fate is in
doubt are W. J. Mallett, T. J. Pecknan, R. J. Pall and H. Kruger, alt of Rochester, N. Y. They are em-loyes of Hopeman Brothers, of hat city, subcontractors on the refitting job

Ordinarily the Northern Pacific carried a crew of about 300. The ship to the West Coast and put he in the Seattle, San Francisco-San Pedro service. Capt. William Lus-tle. commander, is the same skipper who was on the bridge of the Northern Pacific throughout her war service, including the nineteen days when she lay on Fire Island Yeach in the spring of 1919, after going ashore due to a confusion of beaco lights, while carrying a large num ber of wounded soldiers and nurses

## BRITISH PREPARE STERN MEASURES **AGAINST GANDHI**

Arrest of "Prophet" May Be First Step in Drastic Policy.

official quarters, coupled with dis-patches from India, indicate that as

In the meantime, it is learned that the Indian administration is preparing for repressive action which and his foremost lieutenants.

Conditions Held Dangerous Following the communication of the Indian office regarding the seriousness of the situation, officials are less guarded in admitting that conditions are dangerous and des are dangerous, and deconditions are uningerous, and uc-clare that the policy of tolerance merely leads to aggravated aggres-

munique, are: First for the release of all prisoners convicted of "non-violent activities;" second, a guar-antee that the government will refrain from interference with the ac-Train from interference with the activities of the honon-operators.

These demands, the government answers, can neither be accepted nor discussed. The issue is not between political programs, but between lawlessness and the maintenance of principles of civilized government, the Indian government declares.

Will Demand Show-Down, "Civil disobedience must be met with sternness and severity," the

News dispatches from India report a steadily growing defiance of the law and refusal to pay taxes. Owing to the unsettled condi-tions in the East, Lloyds and other underwriters in London have an-nounced that all policies in India will be revised after due notice, with rearrangement of terms covering risks of war, strikes, and riots. Briefly summed up, the situation shows that the government has ar last determined to accept Gandhi's challenge, and that it will demand a show-down.

## MEXICO EXPECTS

# FIGHT ROUSES **BRITISH FEARS**

Collins Agrees to Do Ut most to Return Kidnapped Men.

ARMS DISTRIBUTION ORDERED BY CRAIG

### Desperate Encounter at Fermanagh Reported From Dublin

LONDON, Feb. 8 .- The outbreak of border warfare between Ulster and Ireland, marked in the pass twenty-four hours by raids across the border by armed republicans and the seizure of prominent Orangemen, has created one of the gravest situations since the truce was declared between Sinn Fein and Great Britain,

The kidnapping of Northern Unionists, six of whom are known to have been taken by armed mer and rushed over the border, became the subject of a bitter dehate fonight, both in the House of Commons and in the Lords

Austin Chamberlain, for the gov ernment, disclosed to the common that the cabinet had held a meeting immediately upon receipt of the news, and that instructions had been sent at once to the British commanding officer in Ireland to afford Uister all necesary ald for defense of the northern boundary Reinforcements will be sent if nec-

### Held to Imperial Treaty. The government also telegraphed

to Michael Collins, head of the provisional Irish government, apprisig him of the version of the raids Craig's government, and adding:
"If anything approximating this has happened, his Majesty's government takes the gravest view of the situation. Acts such as these are a breach in the truce and they gravely imperil the treaty."

The note asked Collins to advise immediately whether steps were being taken to release the kidnapped Ulaterment, and also whether the provisional graveness. Craig's government, and adding:

Ulstermen, and also whether provisional government would dertake to provide against redertake to

In reply to this Winston Churchill read to the commons a message received from Collins stating that the provisional government would do its utmost to insure a safe re turn of the kidnapped men,

## Collins Explains Outbreak.

"We do not pretend that this is a satisfactory incident," Churchill declared, "and the house will be mistaken if it supposes that there will be nothing but satisfactory incidents during the next few months." In a statement at Dublin, Collins

ple whose reclings have been outraged pending these executions could have taken no other action. Meanwhile, Sir James Craig ordered the mobilization and complete however, that this tax would be recommended to the control of the con arming of all the special constabulary in Tyrone and Fer-managh, and followed this with an-other public message to Ulster in which he said:

"It is necessary for me to re-main in London to insure against a repetition of the outrage, and also to insure that our people wh have been carried across the border will be speedily restored.

### Orders Arms Distribution. "I shall support every individual In whatever manner is considered wise, and I have arranged for an immediate distribution of arms necessary to protect the border. Every

ly outrages are never to be for-gotten, and will merely strengthen our determination that what Ulster has she will hold." In the House of Lords, Lord Lon-

donderry moved an amendment to the address to the king, "regretting that there was no assurance to not be revived, according to Long-Ulster of the maintenance of net territorial integrity." The amenament was defeated by a vote of 46 sibility existed of utilizing interest payments on the debts of foreign governments. because it is not these payments will

From Dublin comes the report of crossed the border to seize special protection in reprisal for the arrest of Gaelic football players. The republicans were met by special po-licemen who refused to halt. There was firing on both sides and rein-forcements were hurried up by the police. One man was killed.

## **GOLF WITH WALES**

## Liner Northern ULSTER BORDER Hollywood Murder Probe Leads Only to Blind Alley

## Police Can't Trace Owners of Nightiies and Other Clews, as Movie People "Ring Down Curtain" on Increasing Scandal.

Reputation at Stake. But the movie chiefs hav; some thing definite to work on—the rep-utations of stars on whom millions of dollars have been spent—and

## **DIRECT TAXES** DECIDED UPON TO RAISE BONUS

Ways and Means-Committee Seeks Schedule Yielding \$400,000,000.

Funds for the soldier bonus will be faised by direct taxation, impos-ing a burden of at least \$400,000,000 a year for three years.

The House Ways and Means Committee has reached this conclusion and is now seeking the taxes that can best be utilized. Here are some that are favored: Increase in letter postage from 2

to 3 cents, raising \$70,000,000.

A tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline, bringing in \$80,000,000 an nually.

A tax of 25 cents per horsepor on autos, to yield \$75,000 000.

An added tax of \$1 per thousand on cigarettes, and increased taxes on smoking tobacco other than A tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent on stocks and bonds sold in ex-changes, to bring in \$80,000,000,

A tax on the transfer of real estate of one-half of 1 per cent less; a ½ per cent tax yielding \$50 000,000. The committee, according to Representative Frear, of Wisconsin, is nearing its decision on what taxes will be employed, and expects

### able to report out a bonus bill within a short time.

Chairman Fordney, after a trip to the Treasury, favored imposition of real estate transfers, stock and bond transfers, and the higher letter postage, the three to yield ergulation of regulation of regulation than from the point of view of their development than from the point of view of regulation than from the point of view of regulation of regulation than from the point of view of their development than from the point of view of regulation than from the point of view of their development than from the point of view of t

\$100.000.000 this year on good roads the co-ordination of railway transfor auto users. They admitted, portation with that of the public \$100.000.000 this year on good roads for auto users. They admitted, however, that this tax would be highly unpopular. It is figured there are between 10.000,000 and 11.000.000 autos in the country, consuming 8.000,000,000 gallons of gasoline a year.

The committee has divided itself into two sections. One headed by

into two sections. One headed by Representative Green, of Iowa, will Representative dreen, of Iowa, will the more efficient co-ordination and who inspected plans for the build consider methods of compensation, the more economic handling of our ing in the building inspector's officer The other, headed by Chairman Fordney, will decide on taxes. In the absence of Fordney during the next few days Representative Longworth, of Ohio, will preside over the latter committee.

## Says Sales Tax Is Dead.

"I relterate my determination not to surrender any portion of Ulster spread opposition to it in Congress, without our consent. These dastardhead in the said, to which is added the belief that the defeat of the Canadian may have been caused Longworth said the proposal for government may have been caused by the sales tax there. "Nuisance taxes," like those imposed on ice cream, proprietary m

known when these payments will begin, or how much they will be. begin, or how much they will be. Increased income and inheritance taxes likewise have been discarded. Latest calculations of the com. mittee are that the bonus will in its entirety \$1,500,000,000. Should all veterans elect the cash plan, the payments the first year would be \$800,000.000. But it is figured that only half will want cash.

The committee is considering a proposal to begin cash payments on January 1, 1928, the funds needed excess of tax revenues to be provided by the issuance of Treasury certificates based on prospective

### DRUG RAID STIRS FRENCH RIVIERA

PARIS. Feb. 8.2-The entire Riviera from Monte Carlo to Cannes, is seeting with excitement as the resu the arrest of forty-seven persons Nice last night and today charged with selling opium and cocaine. Wealthy and fashionable addicts. including many American men and women, are fearful of exposure be-cause of statements by the police

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—The dynamic energy of the police in the fruitless search for the solution of the mysterious murder of William Desmond Taylor, noted movie director, was exceeded Wednesday by the massed and hurricane activity of the kings of the film industry to ring down the curtain on the unceasing flow of scandal that has involved the tragedy.

The police centered their search on meager clues that ended in blind alleys — mysterious pink nighties that disappear—initialed handker-chiefs that can't be found—hints of secret loves of beautiful and unnamed women giars — rejected lovers—scented love letters.

The chain is endless as the amaz-

The chain is endiess as the amar-ng events of the murdered direc-or's dual life come to light.

reis no longer shine on decolleted and shimmy-loving women of the screen, and the stars are keeping the home fires company.

Attorneys for Mary Miles Minter, after a prolonged session with her producers and the little star at her nome, declared that while Miss Min-ter has no further statement to make regarding her admitted love for the murdered director and her "I love you-I love you-I love you" note to him that nothing whatso-ever will be done to shield her consection with the case.

Proud of Her Love.

were shown Wednesday carried an advertising streamer with "I love you-I love you-I love you-I not you-I love you-" in 'Miss Minter is proud of her town

r Mr. Taylor." said a friend Mabel Normand, following her oliapse at the Taylor funeral, re-Continued on Page Three.

## RAILROADS NEED **NEW CONFIDENCE,** SAYS SEC'Y HOOVER

### Favors Co-Ordination of Agencies Relating to Transportation.

Herbert C. Hoover, Secretary of ommerce, and Senator Albert B. ummins, of Iowa, speaking last Cummins, of Iowa, speaking last night before the national council, United States Chamber of Com-merce, at the Washington Hotel, discussed the proposal by the railor road committee that a commission er-general of transportation be cre.

Secretary Hoover, speaking on the proposal for the establishment of a commissioner of railways, said: "I presume that this project arises from the desire of the business community that there should be some agency in the government Three Features Favored.

Chairman Fordney, after a trip sideration to the development of

Mrs. Grögan last night tour possess she was expecting Miss Jones early Friday afternoon. When she failed to hear from her she thought the trip had been postponed.

An examination of the body at the District morgue by Washington authorities showed indications of a surprise. In an autopsy a specimen of the stomach was taken for analysis. Officials hope to deternance and the stomach was taken for analysis. Officials hope to deternance used to

the more economic handling of our governmental agencies in respect to all these purposes. It has been suggested that such an agency of the government should be created as an independent agency acting directly under the President. I hope that in the course of the next month of two the committee on reorganization of the Federal government will have presented the results of its long study to Concrete the construction or notified the construction or notify the results of its long study to Congress. You will find when that study is presented that one of the chief objectives is the climination of some twenty-five or thirty al-

Continued on Page Three.

### **CIMONDS TO** CONTINENT Noted Writer to Tell Herald

Readers of Conditions FRANK H. SIMONDS, whose

I keen interpretive articles upon the Arms Conference and

other topics have given The Herald's readers a vivid com-posite picture of what's what and why in international af-fairs, will sail for Europe next week.

His objective will be the His objective will be the intranational economic conference at Genoa. First, however, he will visit England, there to ahalyze conditions and to report the "why" of the British attitude and policy. From England Simonds will go to France and carry his investigations into the causes underlying the French viewpoint.

simonds, of course, will observe the league of nations and probably will visit Berlin. He will be on the continent three months, and will oble his atticked and School of the continent three months, and will oble his atticked and School of the continent three months, and will oble his atticked and School of the continent three months, and will oble his atticked and School of the continent three months, and will oble his atticked and School of the continent three months and school of the continent three months and school of the continent three months are continent to the continent three months are continent three months are continent three months are continent three continents are continents three continents are continents. cable his articles even Sat-urday, for publication every Sunday in The Herald. They will be a contribution to journalism even more important than anything hitherto has done.

## **ENGINEER SAYS** HE CHANGED 5 THEATER BEAMS

War Demands Necessitated Substitution in Plans, Ford Testifies.

## REVISION O. K.'D BY INSPECTORS

## **Explains Knickerbocker** Roof Features to Coroner's Jury. Five main members of the steel

structural plans for the Knickerocker Theater roof, which buries ninety-seven persons when it collapsed January 28, were changed from original plans by John H Ford, whose plans were those submitted and passed by the building inspector's office. Mr. Ford, the last witness

before the coroner's jury yesterday afternoon, as the government sough Far from it. Los Angeles thea-ters where Miss Minter's pictures pointed out by the joint board of army and navy engineers the day before, testified to the changes.

Mr. Ford, who worked out the Mr. Ford, who worked out the final steel structural plans as engineer for the Union Iron Works Washington, testified the plan-Washington, testified were changed from were changed from the origina drawings because of the failure of

mills to supply members demanded in the first plans.
Changes constituted substitution of trusses for beams. Trusses are built-up pieces of steel. Beams are solid members, it was explained Additional changes in the main members of the roof included substitution of eight lighter beams than called for in the original plans for four heavier beams in the rear of the building. Ford testified.

### Approved by Inspectors. Although Ford assumed respon-bility for the changes in the plans they were the plans which were submitted to the building inspec-tor's office in application for a per-mit by Reginald W. Geare, architect

and approved by the building in spector's office In speaking of the "inferior work" in the building, Col. William Kelly, testifying on the first day of the inquest for the joint board of arm; and havy engineers who investigated the ruined theater, pointed out the following defects in the steel structural plans which Ford say he worked upon, changed and a

tile wall with small bearing plate. This is particularly important when consideration is given to the ske bearings."
"Insufficient anchorage of ste-

to walls. "Roof slab was too thin for sm nad loading and had insuffcient steel reinforcement." "Ceiling load concentrated in cen-

of the more efficient management, L. Costigan, engineer and compute

"cease construction or notify the building inspector's office of changes in plans being pursued." This report, read by John Ritchie chief clerk of the building depart ment, was dated November 27, 1916 two weeks after he had made hi first inspection of the building at the start of construction.

"The building inspector's office has no record of any report from Mr. Wagner in answer to the recorded demand made upon him by Mr. Curtis," Ritchie told District Attorney Gordon.
Morris Hacker, building inspector

time, told the jury on Tues day he knew of no changes in plan-by the contractor for the building eph P. Healy, present building inspector, and Thomas L. Costigar in the building inspector's office it 1916, testified likewise. Frank I. Wagner, contractor, has not ye been called before the coroner; jury.

## Substitutions Specifice

Changes outlined by Ford before the jury during the afternoon ses-sion, and explained on the same chart used the day before by Colsion, and the day before by charl used the day before by Kelly to point out the causes for the collapse, included the following collapse, included the following collapse, included the tollowing timony.

Beam across the center of the roof structure, the main support changed to a truss. The beam measurements called for four and

a half feet depth The substituted russ was six feet deep.
Four other shorter bears, main members in connecting the Eight eenth street wall to the main sup port, were changed to trusses, with the same changes in measurements Pour twenty-inch beams in the

Continued on Page Two.